

\$10,000 PLEGGED

By Kansas Millers and Grain
Men.

TO COMBAT THE RAILROADS

In the Matter of Alleged
Freight Rate Injustices.

SECRET MEETING SUNDAY

When the Matter Was Thoroughly
Discussed.

A meeting was held in Wichita on Sunday at which were present a number of prominent Kansas millers and grain men. Every effort was made to keep the meeting strictly secret, but the Eagle is able to print, in part, at least, the matters discussed, and the result of the deliberations.

This meeting was the result, or culmination, of an extensive correspondence between the central associations of the millers and grain interests of Kansas and their individual members, since notice of the sharp advance in grain and grain products rates, effective this month, became public.

The subject of the meeting was to decide what action should be taken, and the Eagle can state authoritatively, that \$10,000 has already been pledged, as a first installment, with which to take the matter into the United States courts, and before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Action will be taken along decidedly more radical lines than ever before attempted, and while the allied millers and grain men are not anxious of accomplishing all they will attempt, they expect to succeed in part, and give the present injustice a publicity that will result in a great good later.

Of the discussion and the reasons given for their proposed action, a well known miller said:

"To begin with, the rates on grain and grain products from Kansas points to the Missouri and Mississippi rivers are extortionate, and always have been, since the tariff assumed anything like its present large proportions.

Second—The frequent changes in rates, to different points, are a menace to legitimate business, cause heavy losses and unsound business to an alarming extent.

Third—The advance of 45 cents per bushel on grain and grain products, effective this month, is robbery, pure and simple—is not warranted by conditions, and the reasons assigned for some by the railroads are subterfuge entirely, and have little or no foundation in truth.

Fourth—The railroads, as public corporations, are recognized by the courts, and the roads themselves, are rightfully subject to restraint and correction, when they become extremely grasping, and extortionate, as in the present instance.

It was alleged at the meeting that the rates effective prior to December 8, from Wichita, for instance, namely, 145 cents and 245 cents to the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, respectively, were far more than reasonable, even under the present railroad conditions—and that based on business and what it would cost to replace the roads—that is, the actual investment, aside from water, and the value of the public highways, the revenue is really enormous, so much that the general public and, in fact, many of the business interests, have no conception of the extent to which they are forced to pay beyond legitimate confines.

It was pointed out that the rate is practically what is charged, on the same commodity, east of the Missouri river for similar distances.

It was claimed, therefore, that the advance of two cents between the rivers, effective on the 8th, is unequal for equity, and extortion of the ranker kind.

It was pointed out that one of the worst features that has to be contended with is the frequent change and juggling of rates. As an illustration the Texas tariff was cited, which has been radically changed three times in as many months, so that the freight traffic manager of one of the largest roads testified on each at the meeting, as a concrete hearing that neither he nor anyone else could understand the Texas rates.

The elevator handle grain, and the mills grind it, on a contract basis. The grain and its products are carried at through rates from points of origin to final destination, regardless of the fact that the grain may be milled or elevated at an intermediate point en route.

In connection therewith, the elevator and milling interests are frequently hard hit by tariff fluctuations, through the application of the rule that the higher rate shall always govern. For instance, if wheat is shipped from a stated point on December 7, it is milled at Wichita and freight on the 14th, the mills are forced to pay the former high rate and get no



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benefit of the decline, but if on the contrary the wheat is shipped on the 7th, milled and reshipped on the 10th and the freight advances on the 11th, the mill is forced to pay the advanced rate from the point of origin to destination. Thus the railroads "get on coming and going."

Further, mills of any size and importance, and elevators, likewise, must carry a stock of at least 20,000 bushels. This the present advance of 45 cents deliberately takes from the pockets of those so situated the sum of \$2,250 at one swoop—because almost invariably the grain declines as the freight advances as the freight is an arbitrary charge and does not enhance the value of the grain in the open markets of the world.

The future, then, is a severe blow to the farmers of the state by reducing proportionately the value of the grain in their bins. Elevators and mills cannot, if of any size or importance, do business every day from day to day. They are forced by business exigencies to contract in advance, as far as thirty days, and are therefore frequently deprived of their profit, and more, on such contracts, by an arbitrary and unexpected advance in freight.

Continuing, he said: "Those at the meeting were plain spoken enough to term the December advance of 45 cents per bushel, robbery, pure and simple. They pointed out that the railroads are prosperous, beyond question as is proven, on the face, by the fact that they have extended for the last two months, as well as by the published earnings, as compared with previous years.

"There is also a lesson in the our scarcity and lack of motive power, etc., causing, as it has, severe loss to the grain interests, by cancellation of contracts. This feature is just one indication of the small consideration the public receives and the inadequate preparation the roads make to take care of the traffic of the state of Kansas.

"It was pointed out at the meeting that the reasons assigned for the advance are almost unimpeachable and deceit. The railroads have circulated the report that they have advanced wages.

This was true, could they not afford to divide with their employees from the fund of prosperity which they have been enjoying?" the meeting asked. It was alleged, however, that, on the contrary, there has been no general advance in the wages of railroad employees, and that the roads merely use this untruth, as a better than none, for a pretext on which to lose an advance in freight.

From what the Eagle could learn, it is evident that the millers and grain men are badly worked up, consider the situation a serious one, and are determined to fight it to the bottom, if possible.

The millers claim that their competitors of the northwest, Minnesota and Dakota, etc., while ostensibly having to pay the same advance in December, as a matter of common knowledge are being protected for all the month of December at the old rates, by "contracts." Efforts were made by some of the larger Kansas mills, to make similar "contracts," good for all December but nothing could be accomplished. The Kansas millers claim this difference in the rates of the northwestern and southwestern roads, in their treatment of the interests in the respective territories, is almost generally in evidence. The northern roads almost invariably protect, in some manner, the northern mills, while the roads of Kansas invariably pursue the opposite course.

The Kansas state associations have extended their agitation of the matter beyond the confines of this state, and have corresponded, also with the millers and grain interests of other states, with very satisfactory results—they have also taken the matter up with the National Millers' association of America, composed of thousands of mills, and have received assurances of every needed financial and moral support.

It is not proposed to adopt old, conciliatory tactics. It is not proposed to merely discuss the matter of freight rates, in themselves, but to go to the very root of the abuse, including the evils that cause the railroad managements to feel it necessary that they should thus overcharge. It is proposed to fight the matter along radical lines, even to the extent of a national movement on the part of the combined millers of the United States, if necessary, to the government control, ownership, radical as this may appear.

Two hundred mills and grain men have already subscribed \$5 each, so that it appears the action proposed will not fail for lack of funds, as it is stated that as much more as may be needed, is forthcoming when required.

The best counsel in the United States will be engaged, men of national reputation, and the fight, once started, should be a pretty one.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has already started an investigation of the advance complained of, and it is the intention of those interested to lose no time and to pursue the matter at once in conjunction with the Interstate investigation.

It is not decided in what manner, or where, proceedings should be instituted in the courts. It was the idea that an injunction should be asked for restraining the roads, but as to the development and details, etc., it was decided to leave these in the hands of the attorneys, who were to be engaged immediately.

Mc A. Elliot, assistant commercial freight agent of the Missouri Pacific, in speaking of the new rates yesterday said: "There is one advantage Wichita gets in these new freight rates, even if they are higher. In looking over the new tariff I find that the rates have been raised from 4 to 5 cents per hundred pounds, according to the group in which the town is located. For what reason the rates have been advanced by the roads I know

Continued on Eighth Page.

PARALYSIS WAS CAUSE OF DEATH

Of A. Hartman at 1 o'clock
Yesterday Afternoon.

WAS 74 YEARS OLD

Had Lived in Wichita About
One Year.

While talking with an old friend, Mrs. M. M. Hathaway, at 21 East Douglas, yesterday, A. Hartman, 74 years of age, was seized with a paralytic stroke which caused his instant death at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Hartman ran a small stand at 233 East English street, and during moderate weather slept in a room back of his stand. Yesterday morning he complained of feeling badly and at noon closed his stand, saying that he was going to Mrs. Hathaway's rooming house. He seemed to have had a premonition that his time had come, for before leaving he stated to a neighbor: "You may never see me alive again."

He walked several blocks and climbed the steps to the Hathaway rooms. The family were sitting at dinner and Mr. Hartman took a seat near the table. He seemed exhausted and when questioned admitted that he was not feeling well. He talked with the family a few minutes, then noticed that Creston, the little grandson of Mrs. Hathaway, was not present, he asked: "Where is Creston?"

These were his last words. His head fell to his arm and his whole body collapsed. The family rushed to his assistance, but too late, death had taken him. Dr. Thomas was sent for immediately, but upon arriving said nothing could be done; that he was dead. The body was taken to the undertaking parlors of L. W. Gill, where it will remain until relatives can be notified and can decide upon a place of burial.

Mr. Hartman came here about a year ago from Hutchinson, where he claimed to have lived for several years. The first night he spent in Wichita he engaged a room of Mrs. Hathaway at 21 East Douglas, and during the night was seized with an attack something similar to the one which caused his death yesterday. It was owing to the quick response and kindness of Mrs. Hathaway that he recovered and since that time he has considered the family his friends and their rooms his home. But little could be learned of his life, as none here knew him intimately. His wife died several years ago. His son will be here from Hutchinson this morning and take charge of the remains.

Mrs. J. W. Martin and her daughter, Miss Grace McFarland of Covington, Ky., are in the city visiting Mr. and Mrs. William King of the West Side. They will remain in Kansas for the winter.

DIAMONDS
Loose Diamonds
Diamond Brooches
Diamond Rings
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Diamonds in combination with Pearls
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and other Precious Stones.

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**LAUGHLIN
FOUNTAIN PEN**
Your choice of these two styles, equal to any other \$3.00 kind, for only

\$1.00

Mail orders from our out of town friends will receive prompt attention.

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JEWELER**
128 North Main St.

**Drawing
Near**

to Christmas. Is there not someone for whom you have not yet selected a gift? Why not a watch fob? There are no handsomer ones made—for either men's or women's wear—than

**Simmons
Watch Fobs**

We've a great variety of patterns—all very reasonably priced.

Our Show Cases
Glisten with hundreds of gift suggestions in the way of Gold Jewelry for men and women. Scarf and Silk Pins, Brooches, Rings, etc., in an endless variety of rich and beautiful designs.

I. F. Varney, Jeweler
Sign of the Time
128 NORTH MAIN.

**IT WILL GIVE
YOU AN "IDEA,"
THE MANY XMAS
THINGS WE'LL
SHOW YOU**

**Seen the
New Muffler?**

Well, it's no wonder that you've had no inspiration for that Christmas present. This one is so different from the ordinary run of scarfs and mufflers. We were very much struck with it when it first arrived and we know that you can't help but be.

"Back East" it's called the "Square" and, sure enough, it's met squarely with everybody's liking. These mufflers are longer than they're broad—rectangular, you know—about ten inches broad and just long enough to make the most becoming and practical of mufflers.

The "proper" kind are like we'll show in polka dot and Persian effects. Ask to see them when you come in.

Herman & Hess
Where Quality Counts.

**THE TRUTH
SUFFICIENT**

We are handling a class of goods that need no misrepresentation in quality, no exaggeration in price, and there are now hundreds in this city who have given our merchandise a practical test and who will verify this statement. We mention in particular the

**Hart Schaffner & Marx
Makes—The Truth Spoken
of their Suits and
Overcoats is Sufficient**

Think twice before buying and get one.

"THE HUB"
CHARLES YOUNGHEIM,
Wichita's New One-Price Clothing Store,
114 North Main Street.
Sole Agents Luther's Hand-Made Gloves. Special attention given to Mail Orders.

NEED HOUSEHOLD ARTICLES. household articles. If any one has such articles they should call on Mrs. Couch, the secretary of the association, whose office is in the court house, and notify the Association. Charities could use to an advantage a bedstead and a few other things. At this time of the year there is

**A Call
for Overcoats**

If you are not prepared you should come to the

GOLDEN EAGLE

We have just received another shipment of Medium and High-Grade Overcoats in the very latest styles of black and oxford in the medium, regular, long and full cut. Made by America's best tailors and every garment must be a perfect fit in every respect before it leaves our store.

Golden Eagle
Wichita's Greatest
Money-Saving Clothing Store

"The Fullmore"
"SEE-IT"

always many applications for aid and this year is no exception to the rule. It keeps the officers busy looking after the wants of those who appeal for charity and picking out the deserving ones. Those who are now asking for assistance are generally people who earn little or no money, but who have been unable to get out of town.

G. L. Drake has moved his office from 20 East Douglas to rooms 22 and 23, Brown block, with the Home Loan company, where he would be pleased to meet all of his old patrons.

M. W. LEVY, President.
J. B. WALL, Vice-President.
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THE STATE SAVINGS BANK
A general banking business transacted.
Savings Department.
Deposits received in the sum of one dollar and upward, drawing interest at the rate of
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Office hours from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m.
Satisfactory savings department for the deposit of deposits of \$100.00 or less from 7 to 9 p. m., in addition to the regular banking hours.

Daily Eagle, Delivered, 10c Per Week.

**Holiday
Suggestions**

**Leather
Goods**

Fancy Articles, Celluloid Boxes and Albums. What we show in this class of goods constitutes the largest and most varied stock shown in Wichita.

Celluloid Photograph Albums, of pretty designs, plain back, gilt edges and clasps; Stand Albums, Musical Albums, etc., at 19c, 24c, 39c, 50c, 85c, \$1.20, \$1.80, up to \$5.75

Celluloid and Leather Collar and Cuff Boxes, lined with colored satin of various shades; at 49c, 70c, \$3.50, \$7.00, \$11.75, up to \$15.00

Toilet Sets, Toilet Cases, Manicure Sets, etc., white and other colors; fittings are of hard rubber and ebony; an endless variety of this class of goods to choose from. Priced from 25c up to \$9.50 and at all intermediate prices.

Tourists' Toilet Cases at, each, 44c, 64c, \$2.30 and \$4.00

Music Rolls, at, each, 44c and 42c

Celluloid Photo Boxes, very fancy shapes and designs.

394 years ago today John Milton, the English poet, was born.

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We Have Cut Prices to Almost Nothing

We have made prices so low that you cannot resist buying even if you don't need the goods. You will, and it's dollars to doughnuts that you will never have an opportunity of buying reliable, up-to-date goods so cheap again in a life time.

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And at once. Come and see the way we are selling. Visit the greatest selling event in the history of Wichita, the greatest bargains you were ever offered.

Men's Fine \$18, \$20, \$22.50, \$25 Suits now go at \$14, \$16, \$17.50, \$20.
Men's \$12 and \$15 Suits now go at \$8 to \$11.25.
Men's \$10 Suits now go at \$6 and \$7.
Men's \$7 and \$8 Suits now go at \$4.50 and \$5.00.
Boys' \$8 to \$10 Suits now go at \$4 and \$5.50.
Boys' \$5, \$6 and \$7 Suits now go at \$2.50 to \$4.00.

Boys' Ties and \$1.00 Pants now go at 45 cents.
Hats, all styles for men and boys, at your own price.
Caps for men and boys, 10c up.
Scraper's Heavy Underwear, the \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$2.00 kind, go now at 75c.
Men's and Boys' Shirts, white and fancy, stiff bosom and negligee, at half price. Work clothes at less than factory prices.

Smoking Jackets, Bath Robes, Silk Mufflers, Silk Collar Protectors, Full Dress Mufflers, Dress Gloves, Driving Gloves, Work Gloves, Underwear, Union Suits and everything in Men's and Boys' Apparel for less money than the factory can produce them for.

O. Z. SMITH, Administrator

Books for the Children

With illustrated story-books, etc., including A. B. C. Books, Xmas Story Books, Bible Books, Fairy Tale Books, etc. These are the largest and most complete stock of books ever sold at this price. All \$2.00, 50c.

Silverware

Matchless the bargains, very suitable for Xmas gifts.

Silver Tea Sets \$10.00
Silver Tea Sets \$10.00
Silver Tea Sets \$10.00
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Special Doll Bargains

You will be surprised to see the dolls we sell at 50c and 75c. These are the biggest values for a doll ever sold. We have them in dress and all styles; also baby dolls, 21 inch, 18 inch, 12 inch, 10 inch, 8 inch, 6 inch, 4 inch, 3 inch, 2 inch, 1 inch, 1/2 inch, 1/4 inch, 1/8 inch, 1/16 inch, 1/32 inch, 1/64 inch, 1/128 inch, 1/256 inch, 1/512 inch, 1/1024 inch, 1/2048 inch, 1/4096 inch, 1/8192 inch, 1/16384 inch, 1/32768 inch, 1/65536 inch, 1/131072 inch, 1/262144 inch, 1/524288 inch, 1/1048576 inch, 1/2097152 inch, 1/4194304 inch, 1/8388608 inch, 1/16777216 inch, 1/33554432 inch, 1/67108864 inch, 1/134217728 inch, 1/268435456 inch, 1/536870912 inch, 1/1073741824 inch, 1/2147483648 inch, 1/4294967296 inch, 1/8589934592 inch, 1/17179869184 inch, 1/34359738368 inch, 1/68719476736 inch, 1/137438953472 inch, 1/274877906944 inch, 1/549755813888 inch, 1/1099511627776 inch, 1/2199023255552 inch, 1/4398046511104 inch, 1/8796093022208 inch, 1/17592186044416 inch, 1/35184372088832 inch, 1/70368744177664 inch, 1/140737488355328 inch, 1/281474976710656 inch, 1/562949953421312 inch, 1/1125899906842624 inch, 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